Post 7-1-72

FBI's Gray Hits Blasts At Police

SAN DIEGO, Calif., June 30 (UPI)—Echoing the late J. Edgar Hoover, Acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray III today accused former Attorney General Ramsey Clark and other law enforcement critics of making monstrous accusations against the police.

Gray criticized Clark, a Democrat, for his recent statement to the congressional black caucus that American police departments were engaged in a program "to control blacks and other minorities instead of protecting them against the crime that often wracks their neighborhoods."

Hoover whom Gray succeeded last May 4, once called Clark "a jellyfish." Gray made his remarks in a speech prepared for the state convention of California Exchange Clubs in which he said he thought the subject should be discussed "from a professional standpoint, and not in political terms."

"The viewpoint expressed by these critics ignores the magnitude of the crime problem in the United States," Gray said.

He also took umbrage with a New Yorker magazine article in which writer Richard Harris claims that programs to control crime are really programs to "keep Negroes in their place."